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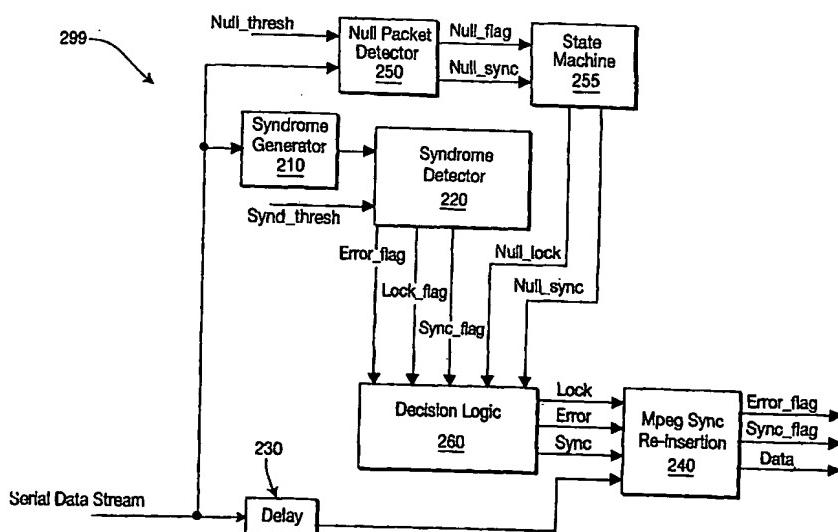
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*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING NULL PACKETS IN A DIGITAL MEDIA RECEIVER



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus (299) for reliably detecting MPEG-2 packet sync-byte positions received via a digital transmission system in the event of a packet stream containing a plurality of null packets or a plurality of packets containing a fixed repeating bit pattern and for reliably synchronizing and delivering the MPEG-2 stream broadcast to the receiver transport layer. A Null-Packet Detector (250) compares the content of the current packet with a fixed (or predetermined) bit pattern to detect a null packet to reliably identify the location of the sync-byte of the null packet. A sync-byte position is identified based upon the position of the predetermined fixed bit pattern in the header portion of a plurality of null-packets in the stream.



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